

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03
OES-06 DLOS-09 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /094 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA: NAVELIOTES
INR:RHODGSON
L/OES:DCOLSON
EUR/WE:EROWELL (DRAFT)
-----260314Z 117330 /73

P 252331Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
SECDEF PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, LY, IT, TS, FR

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: FURTHER CONSULTA-
TIONS WITH QUAI

REF: PARIS 11206

1. IN REPLY TO REFTEL QUERY, YOU SHOULD ADVISE QUAI THAT
VARIANTS ON TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF BOUNDARY GIVEN IN ELY
STUDY ARE ALL EQUIDISTANT LINES. VARIATIONS DEPEND ON HOW
COASTAL BASELINES ARE DRAWN; I.E., SELECTION OF HEADLANDS
FOR NORMAL AND HISTORIC BAY CLOSING LINES, STRAIGHT BASE-
LINES, TREATMENT OF ISLANDS, AND USE OF LOW TIDE ELEVATIONS.
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YOU SHOULD STRESS TO QUAI THAT USG IS NOT TAKING A POSITION
ON THESE LEGAL ISSUES, BUT REMAINS WILLING TO SUPPORT
TUNISIANS IF THEY CHOOSE TO HAVE ISSUE INSCRIBED IN UNSC,
SINCE LIBYANS HAVE VIOLATED BILATERAL AGREEMENT IN PUB-
LISHED COMMUNIQUE OF AUGUST, 1976, AND TUNISIANS HAVE
REFRAINED FROM COUNTERACTION.

2. WE AGREE WITH QUAI THAT DISCREET MEDIATION EFFORT WOULD BE IDEAL SOLUTION, IF ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. YOU SHOULD INQUIRE WHAT STEPS FRENCH HAVE IN FACT TAKEN WITH LIBYANS, AND WHAT SIGNS THEY HAVE SEEN, IF ANY, THAT LIBYANS ARE INTERESTED IN ARBITRATION/MEDIATION/CONCILIA-

TION. INCIDENTALLY, WE FIND REASONING RE FRENCH POSITION ON "ISOLATION" OF LIBYA AND SOVIET FACTOR UNCONVINCING (PARA 2 REFTEL). IT IS ALSO DISTURBING SINCE THIS LOGIC COULD BE USED TO EXCUSE VIRTUALLY ANY LIBYAN EXCESS. YOU MIGHT MENTION THIS TO D'ALBIS AT NEXT APPROPRIATE OCCASION.

3. FYI: ELY STUDY PREPARED FOR BUTTES PETROLEUM RELIES EXTENSIVELY ON WORK BY STATE DEPARTMENT GEOGRAPHER ON HOW POTENTIAL EQUIDISTANT LINES IN THIS AREA MIGHT BE DRAWN. SEPARATE LEGAL WORK BY UK EXPERT UNDER DIRECT CONTRACT TO GOT WOULD BE BASIS FOR CONSIDERABLY MORE AMBITIOUS TUNISIAN CLAIM. ELY HIMSELF AND BUTTES MANAGEMENT ARE RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE STUDY TO QUAI, BECAUSE OPENING TUNISIAN POSITION IN ANY ARBITRAL PROCEEDINGS MIGHT BE BASED ON WORK DONE IN UK. QUAI OFFICIALS SHOULD BE ENTIRELY UP TO SPEED ON LEGAL ISSUES CONCERNING CONTINENTAL SHELF DELIMITATION SINCE FRANCE IS IN ARBITRATION WITH THE UK ON THIS MATTER, AND SINCE AGREEMENT ON BAY OF BISCAY BOUNDARY HAS RECENTLY BEEN REACHED. END FYI.

4. FOR TUNIS: WE ARE ADVISING TUNISIAN EMBASSY THAT WE HAVE EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH FRENCH, AS PROMISED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, AND THAT GOT MAY WISH TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FOLLOW-UP ON FRENCH INTEREST IN LEGAL BASIS FOR TUNISIAN CLAIMS. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO ADVISE FONMIN SIMILARLY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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